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RR RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM  
DE RUEHJA #0095 0170007  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 170007Z JAN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7660  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1414  
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 8289  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1519  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1880  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 2241  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0138  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS JAKARTA 000095

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DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/RSP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS  
DEPT FOR EB/IFD/OMA  
DEPT ALSO FOR OES/IET AND OES/ETC/TED  
TREASURY FOR IA-SETH SEARLS  
COMMERCE FOR 4430/BERLINGUETTE  
SINGAPORE FOR BAKER

E.O. 12598: N/A

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SUBJECT: ASEAN FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

¶1. (U) On January 16, The ASEAN Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary with a forum focusing on its achievements and future plans under ASEAN's Socio-Cultural Pillar (covering education, social development, the environment, and health). ASEAN Deputy Secretary General Nicholas Dammen delivered remarks on behalf of new

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Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan, which echoed his earlier

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statements promoting awareness of ASEAN and engaging youth to create an ASEAN identity. In an interview in the December/January issue of "AsiaViews", Dr. Surin had said that the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Pillar could "make or break" the organization. ASEAN cannot create and sustain its economic and political-security communities, he emphasized, if ASEAN citizens do not feel a sense of ownership and cannot participate in and benefit from its development.

¶2. (U) Erna Witoelar, former UN Special Ambassador for Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in Asia and the Pacific, gave a keynote speech on current and regional development trends in relation to the ASEAN Community. The MDGs are about values, she stated, and serve as a unifying basis for development cooperation. When addressing barriers to development, Witoelar specifically highlighted climate change, emphasizing that the issue undermines the MDGs and could undo decades of development work. She also raised the importance of the private sector in creating employment opportunities, promoting technical advances, and protecting the environment, especially in the wake of globalization and decentralization in Indonesia.

¶3. (U) Apichai Sunchindah, the outgoing Executive Director of the Foundation, acknowledged the contributions of the ASEAN Foundation's donors in a brief tribute. The list included Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard among country donors Japan, China and Korea. The ASEAN Foundation was one of 11 recipients under HP's \$1.3 million Micro Enterprise Development Grant Program, geared towards helping small, low-income startup businesses with IT equipment and training.

